

# Certain Propositions

*Relating to the Scots Plantation of CALEDONIA,  
and the National Address for supporting thereof, briefly offered  
to Publick View, for removing of Mistakes and Prejudices.*

I. **T**HAT the *Scots* Planters have entered upon *Caledonia* by Warrant, and under Security of an Act of Parliament, and Letters patent from his Majesty under the Great Seal, and most strictly within the Terms and Conditions thereof; otherwise there had needed no more to Ruine them, than a Declaration of their having Forfeited their Act and Charter.

II. That their Right is confirmed by Invitation from, and League with the original free Nauves of that Country, who only can have the primary Natural Right to the Soil, and from whom the *Spaniards* have, contrary to all Justice, Faith, and Conscience, usurp'd what they now possess in *America*, having obtain'd their Possession by Fraud and Force and Barbarous Cruelty, and by the Popes Donation upon certain Conditions, which they have not in the least observed, as is fully made appear by *Bastidas*, *the* *Arch* *Bishop* *of* *Chiapa*, one of there own Missionaries.

III. That the place chosen by the *Scots* was never inhabited by the *Spaniards* or any other European, and consequently the *Scots* have the same freedom to take Possession of it, as the English to posses any part of the Coast from *New-England* to *Florida*, the French in *Canada* and *Mississippi*, the *Portuguez* in *Brasil*, and the *Dutch* in *Surinam*, being all upon the same Continent, which the *Spaniards* from *Columbus*' discovery, do claim to themselves. And indeed it is evident, That the Crown and Kingdom of *Scotsland* hath not a better Title, nor a more just Right to any *Scots* Territory, from the *Isle of Galloway* to the *Wash of Cabine* then to *Caledonia* in *America*.

IV. That not only have the *Scots* the sole unquestionable Right to this Important Place; But likewise, albeit they have been hitherto debarred from all Benefit of free Trading in other Plantations, yet they have very frankly offered both to the *English* and *Dutch*, their Protestant Neighbours, a reasonable Share in all the Advantages of *Caledonia*, which for Natural Wealth and Strength, and convenience of Trading, is without Dispute, the most considerable in the whole World.

That if the *Scots* be forced to abandon their Plantation, the *French* will undoubtedly seize upon it, not only for the sake of Trade, Gain, and Empire, But likewise for rooting out the Northern Heresy, both from *America* and *Europe*, which may be easily foreseen; both by the vast occasion of Power and Wealth, that so important a Post will bring to the *French* Greacnes, and by the keen Resentment that all the Papist Courts, and particularly the Court of *Rome* have testified against the *Scots* professing thereof, and by the no less unpolitick than cruel Persecution that, at this day, reigns in *France* against the poor Remnant of Protestants, who cannot comply with Superstition and Idolatry.

That there is such an hopeful appearance of propagating the pure Gospel amongst an Harmless, good Natur'd People in the Neighbourhood of *Caledonia*, who are well disposed to receive it, as ought to excite Reformed Protestants to contribute thereto with the greatest Vigor; and to strengthen themselves against the Roman Power; especially when Popery prevails so mightily over all *Europe*, and the Papists compass Sea and Land to gain Prosletites; Nor doth the Remotest, Danger and Barbarities of *China*, *Japan*, *Tartary*, and all the back parts of the *English* Plantations affright or faint their Zeal.

V. That therefore, it is the undoubted Interest and Duty of all Protestants, to support the Colony in the *Scots* hands, who have the only just Right thereto; and in their Possession, it must certainly prove more beneficial to all other Protestant Kingdoms and States, than any other more wealthy and powerful Kingdom or State, would be to them to unto the rest, if they did posses it alone. And it must be then unquestionable duty of all true hearted *Scots* Men to endeavour by all just, Legal, and orderly ways, the Preservation of their own Colony.

VI. That whatever has been the Cause of the late Disaster of *Caledonia*, yet most Evident it is, that the Colony cannot now be preserved to *Scotsland*, unless

unless the Force and Effect of the *West-India* Proclamations be taken off, and that so, very speedily, since it is undeniably manifest, that the Company under their present hard Circumstances, and now sadly redoubled Misfortunes, are not able to support the same, and without the very speedy Assistance of a Parliament, not only must so Great and Honourable an Enterprise fail to the Ground, but the remaining Persons, and the Treasure employed therein must Perish, to the Irreparable Loss and Dishonour of the Nation.

IX. That the only proper and effectual Way for Remedy, is (in opinion of the *Dutch-East-India-Company*, who having been unsuccessful in their two first Ventures, were supported by the *State-General*) in all Humble and Dutiful Manner, to Address the King for the Meeting of the parliament; which having been already done by the Company, and his Majesty having been pleased to regret their and the Kingdoms lots, and to promise that the Parliament shall meet, when the Good of the Nation does require it. There can be nothing more Natural, than for the Nation themselves to require his Majesty of the urgent Necessity of the Parliament's speedy Meeting, upon so weighty and pressing a Juncture, and of so Universal a Concern to the whole Nation.

X. That the Natural Right of Petitioning, in a Legal and Orderly Way, being Savoured and asserted by the *Claim of Right*, the Happy Purchase of the late Glorious Revolution; And His Majesty, our Great Deliverer under God, having always manifested a just Regard to the forelaid Right of Petitioning, even in that Proclamation that forbids Illegal Methods. However His Majesty may, in some things, have been mis-informed, to the Prejudice of this His Ancient Kingdom. Yet it is never to be imagined, but that when he understands their true Good from themselves, he will generously grant their Just and Necessary Desires, and with a Fatherly Affection Conscience, and take care of their Righteous Cause.

XI. That tho' it be Diloyal for any Man, to doubt of the Kings granting a Parliament, when sought by so considerable a part of the Nation: And to doubt of the Parliament's supporting *Caledonia*, is unworthy of a *Sens Man*: Yet if the Question be ask'd, What is to be done in case of Refusal? The Answer is plain, That first, the Nation shall have the Satisfaction of having done their Duty; and next, they shall have the Melancholly Advantage of knowing, that further Attempts for an American Plantation must at present cease, so as they need not fruitlessly throw away more Men and Money to be lost in doubtful Expectations, but must gather up their Salywicks, and call Home what remains.

XII. That in a Case of so Universal and Pressing Concern, as Persons of Honour themselves have been hitherto enter into the Trading-Company, for a long time, none from their Duty in promoting this Address, because Persons of the same concerning Interests joyn in it; since the Address it self is National, Loyal and Protestant, and one of the best Securities to the present Government; and so also is the Design in which all doth Center.

XIII. That albeit some ill Minded Persons be stirr themselves in blowing about Insinuations, Surmises and Jealousies, to raise Dust and blind Peoples Eyes, yet that are so weak and groundless, and are convincingly found to be so very idle Stories, that they deserve the utmost Contempt, since Persons of all Ranks engaged in the Address, do on all Occasions openly disown all Intentions of Disquieting or Prejudging the Government in Church or State, as now by Law established, and declare the only Design to be His Majesty's true Honour, and the Good of the Countrey, which are inseparable, and the Christian Glory of the Church, in the Propagation of the Gospel by the Protestant Presbyterian Ministers of the Church of Scotland. Besides that, there is an absolute Impossibility, if Matters be duly pondered, that it should otherwise; or that an Address for the Meeting of that Parliament, which effects the late Happy Revolution, and for the Support of *Caledonia*, can have any other Tendency.

XIV. That the General Assembly, by their Acts, and the Commission, by their Letter to the Colony, their Mission in Summer last, and their late Recommendation to Presbyteries, have testified so peculiar a Regard to the *Caledonian Undertaking*, as so just a Sense of the great Interests of Religion therein, That no Minister of the Gospel, who will not blindly truckle to a Party, or is not mised by the Power of Prejudice, can hesitate upon the Necessity, much less upon the Expediency of so Daring and Loyal an Address, when the Countries Good, and the Service of the Nation doth so urgently require it.